

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The House of Representatives on Wednesday passed the omnibus appropriations bill to fund government operations for 2008. The bill, which will now go to the president's desk, included \$70 billion that could be used for the Iraq war. The House passed the same bill Monday evening prohibiting the use of any funds for the Iraq war, but were forced to vote again after the Senate amended the bill to include the Iraq dollars.

Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel) voted against the bill on Wednesday, protesting the Iraq funds. The final vote was 272-142. He released the following statement after the vote:

"The Republicans, led by the president, held domestic spending hostage in return for money to pursue their occupation of Iraq. While 141 Democrats and one Republican voted against the Iraq funds, there just weren't enough votes to stop the president.

"This is a sad day for our country. America voted Democrats into power last November to end this war, and we have failed. I will continue to lead the fight against the Iraq war and will continue to vote against spending a single penny of American taxpayer dollars for this war."

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